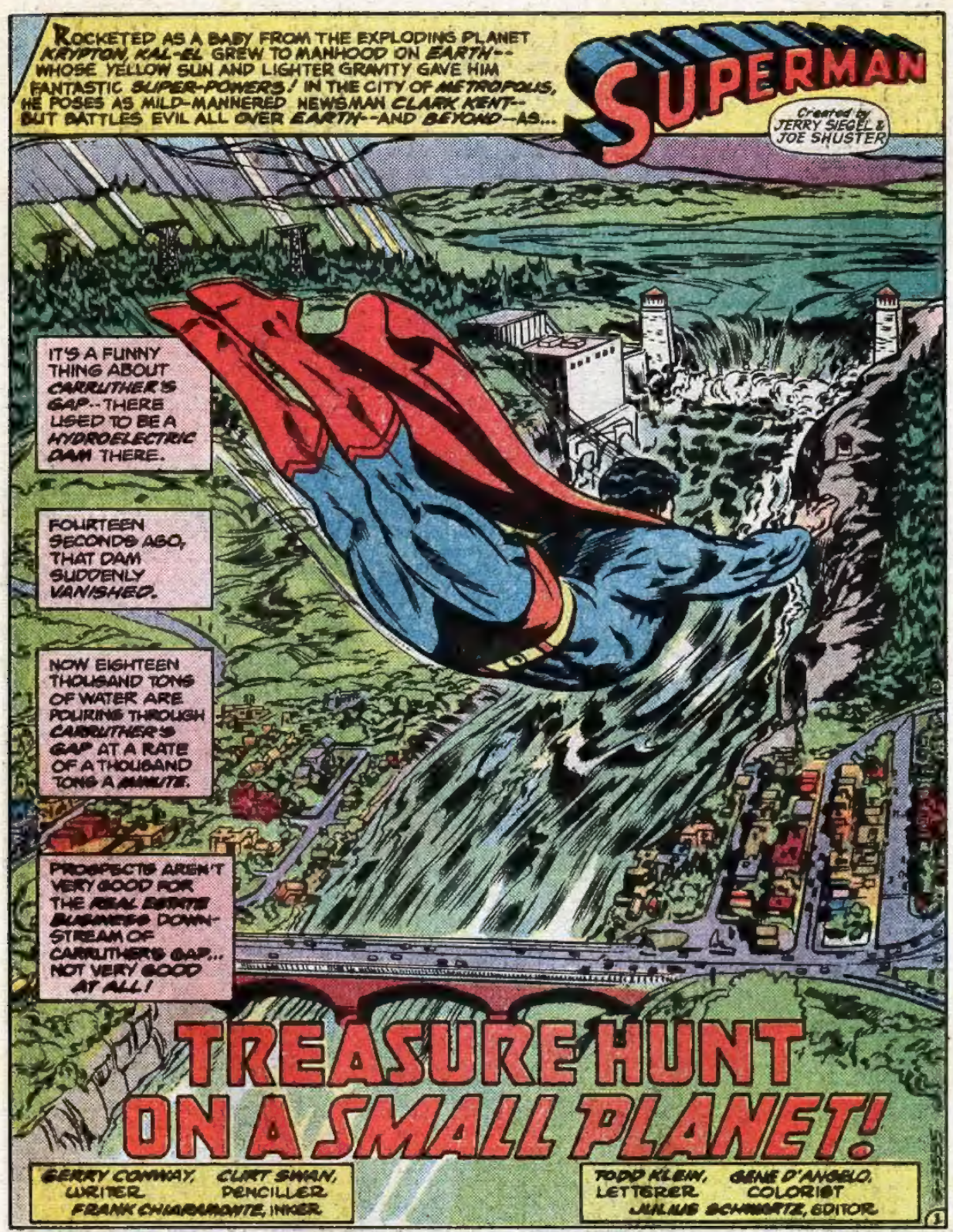
SPACEMEN HAVE COME TO EARTH--
FOR THE STRANGEST REASON IMAGINABLE!
50¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 518
APR.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SUPERMAN®
STARRING IN
ACTION® COMICS
ALSO--
ACTION-PLUS WITH
AQUAMAN!
ANDARU & GIORDANO
GREAT KRYPTON! WHY WOULD THOSE ALIENS WANT TO STEAL A HUGE DAM?
SAYVILLE LUMBER
PARK
FBScan


ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
IT'S A FUNNY THING ABOUT CARRUTHER'S GAP--THERE USED TO BE A HYDROELECTRIC DAM THERE.
FOURTEEN SECONDS AGO, THAT DAM SUDDENLY VANISHED.
NOW EIGHTEEN THOUSAND TONS OF WATER ARE POURING THROUGH CARRUTHER'S GAP AT A RATE OF A THOUSAND TONS A MINUTE.
PROSPECTS AREN'T VERY GOOD FOR THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS DOWNSTREAM OF CARRUTHER'S GAP... NOT VERY GOOD AT ALL!
TREASURE HUNT ON A SMALL PLANET!
GERRY CONWAY, WRITER
CURT SWAN, PENCILLER
FRANK CHIARAMONTE, INKER
TODD KLEIN, LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO, COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR
3

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OLD MIKE MURPHY HAS BEEN A WATCHTOWER GUARD AT THE GAP FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS...
HE'S BEEN TRAINED TO SPOT FOREST FIRES IN THE WOODS ON THE SLOPES SURROUNDING THE GAP--
--HE'S BEEN TRAINED TO SPOT MINUTE CRACKS IN THE DAM FOUNDATION--
--HE'S BEEN TRAINED TO DEAL WITH VANDALS AND, REFLECTING A SOMETIMES PARANOID ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF POWER COMPANY OFFICIALS, HE'S EVEN BEEN TRAINED TO FOIL SABOTEURS...
BUT, DURING ALL THE MANY HOURS OF TRAINING HE RECEIVED BEFORE HE TOOK THE JOB, AND SINCE--
--OLD MIKE MURPHY WAS NEVER TRAINED HOW TO REACT TO A SITUATION LIKE THIS!...
S-SU-SUPERMAN?

HAVE TO BUILD A NEW DAM TO STOP THIS FLOOD...
...BUT THE NEAREST SOURCE OF HEAVY STONE IS IN A QUARRY ONE HUNDRED MILES FROM HERE!
I COULD REACH THE QUARRY AND RETURN IN A MATTER OF SECONDS--
--BUT I SHOULDN'T LEAVE THE AREA WHILE I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW OR WHY THE ORIGINAL DAM DISAPPEARED!
SO, I'LL DO WHAT THE BEAVERS DO...
BUZZZZZZ
... AND BUILD A DAM FROM WOOD...
...MORTARING IT WITH MUD!
I'LL RE-SEED THAT SLOPE AFTER I'VE DEALT WITH THIS EMERGENCY!

THIS IS THE THIRD INCREDIBLE "DISAPPEARANCE" OF SOME MAN-MADE ARTIFACT IN THE PAST THREE HOURS!
IT'S A GOOD THING I WAS ON THE ALERT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS--AND WAS LISTENING WITH MY SUPER-HEARING...
...OTHERWISE I MIGHT NOT HAVE REACHED THIS AREA BEFORE THE FLOOD HIT THE COMMUNITY DOWNSTREAM!
THERE, THE MUD-MORTAR IS IN PLACE!
NOW TO QUICK-BAKE IT WITH MY HEAT VISION, AND TRUST I'VE BUILT IT STRONG ENOUGH!
WITH A ROAR LIKE AN ONCOMING FREIGHT TRAIN, THE RUSHING FLOOD WATERS STRIKE THE WOODEN BARRIER LIKE THE FIST OF GOD...
...BUT THE BARRIER HOLDS!
4

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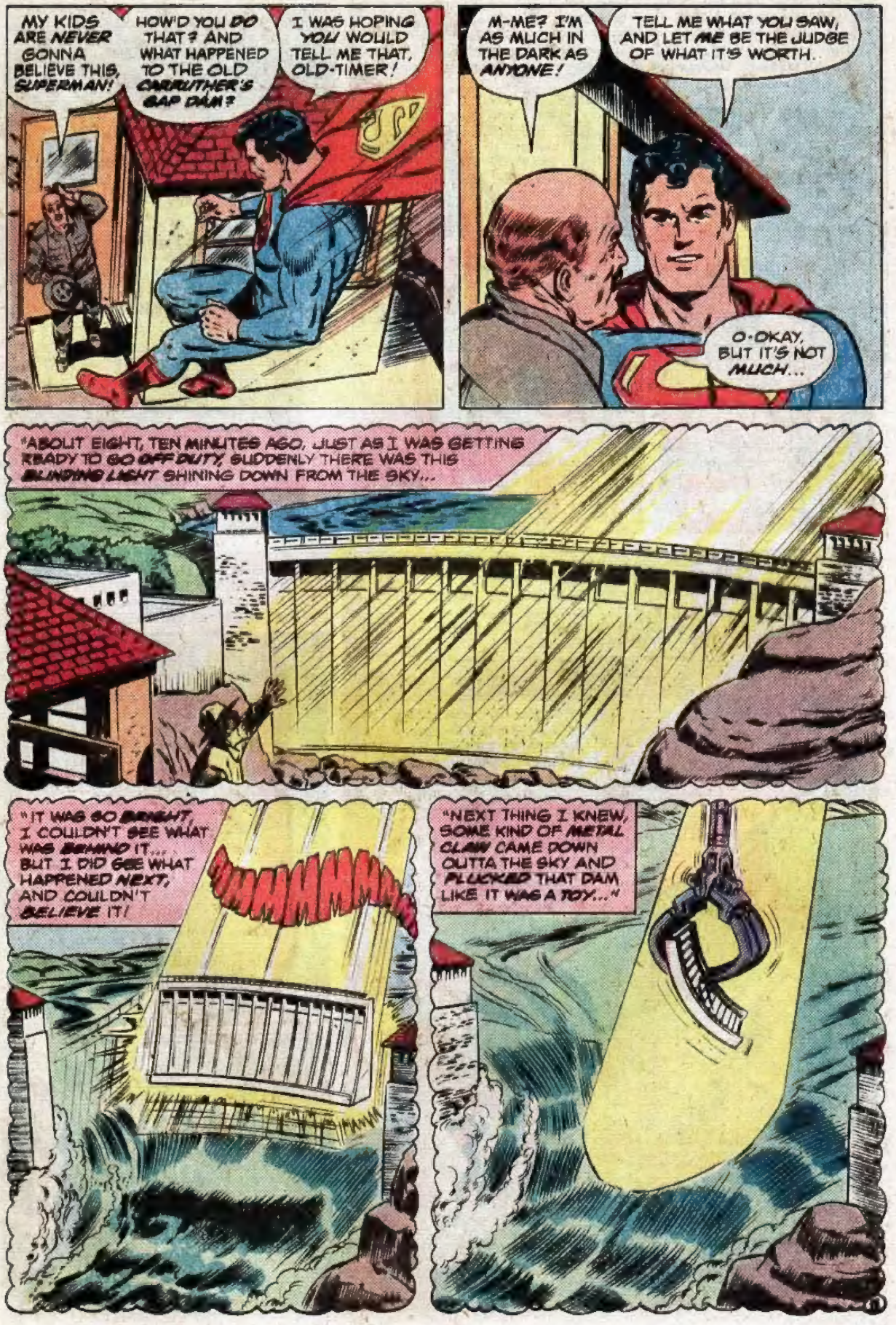

MY KIDS ARE NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS, SUPERMAN!
HOW'D YOU DO THAT? AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OLD CARRUTHER'S GAP DAM?
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD TELL ME THAT, OLD-TIMER!
M-ME? I'M AS MUCH IN THE DARK AS ANYONE!
TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW, AND LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF WHAT IT'S WORTH..
O-OKAY, BUT IT'S NOT MUCH...
"ABOUT EIGHT, TEN MINUTES AGO, JUST AS I WAS GETTING READY TO GO OFF DUTY, SUDDENLY THERE WAS THIS BLINDING LIGHT SHINING DOWN FROM THE SKY...
"IT WAS SO BRIGHT, I COULDN'T SEE WHAT WAS BEHIND IT... BUT I DID SEE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, AND COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
"NEXT THING I KNEW, SOME KIND OF METAL CLAW CAME DOWN OUTTA THE SKY AND PLUCKED THAT DAM LIKE IT WAS A TOY..."

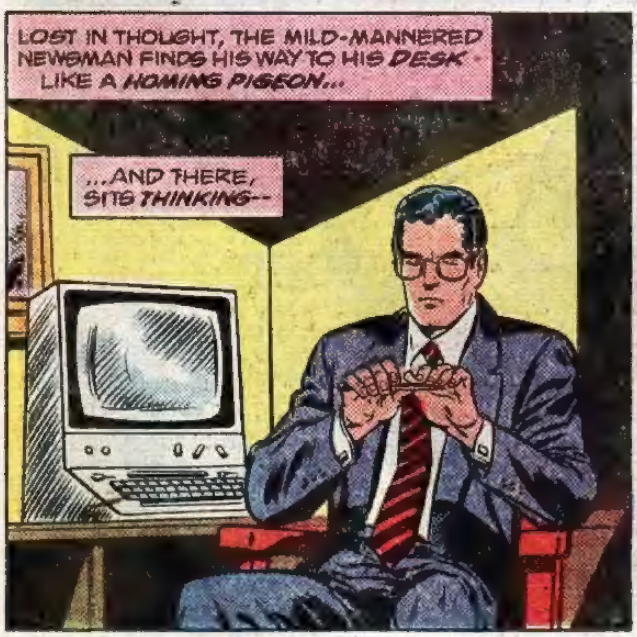
THAT WAS THE LAST I SAW. THE LIGHT GOT SO BRIGHT IT HURT MY EYES TO LOOK AT IT. THEN, LIKE THAT--
--IT WAS GONE! I NEVER SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DAM.
HMMM... IT'S JUST LIKE THE OTHER TWO INCIDENTS...
WHAT'S THAT? YOU MEAN THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE?
WITH A TEXTILE FACTORY AND AN AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION LINE!
AND I HAVE AS MUCH IDEA WHAT IT MEANS AS YOU DO OLD-TIMER!
LIKE I SAID, THE KIDS ARE NEVER GONNA BELIEVE THIS...
FOR A TRAVELER BY CAR, METROPOLIS IS THREE HOURS FROM CARRUTHER'S GAP -- FOR A TRAVELER BY PLANE, TWENTY MINUTES...
FOR THE ACTION ACE, THE JOURNEY FROM DAM-SITE TO THE GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING IS A LEISURELY FIVE SECONDS...
HE HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME TO CONSIDER THE MYSTERY CONFRONTING HIM, AND REACH TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS...
LOMBARD, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
DIMAGGIO BATTED FOR 55 CONSECUTIVE GAMES SAFELY IN '41 -- NOT 57! AND HE HIT 16 HOME RUNS, NOT 17!

LOOK, OLSEN, WHO'S THE SPORTS EXPERT, YOU OR ME?
WE'LL ASK CLARK. HIS MEMORY IS BETTER THAN OURS COMBINED.
MMM?

CLARK? CLARK, WAKE UP. HOW MANY GAMES DID JOE DIMAGGIO HIT IN SAFELY IN 1941?
TERRIFIC! WE'VE GOT A SLEEPWALKER FOR A REFEREE!
YOO-HOO, ANYBODY HOME UP THERE?

WHAT...? OH... IT WAS 56 CONSECUTIVE GAMES, 91 HITS, 16 TO SECOND BASE, 4 TO THIRD, 15 HOME RUNS.
?!
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, JIMMY...

AW, WHAT DOES HE KNOW, ANYWAY...?
I STILL SAY IT WAS 57!


LOST IN THOUGHT, THE MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN FINDS HIS WAY TO HIS DESK LIKE A HOMING PIGEON...
...AND THERE, SITS THINKING--

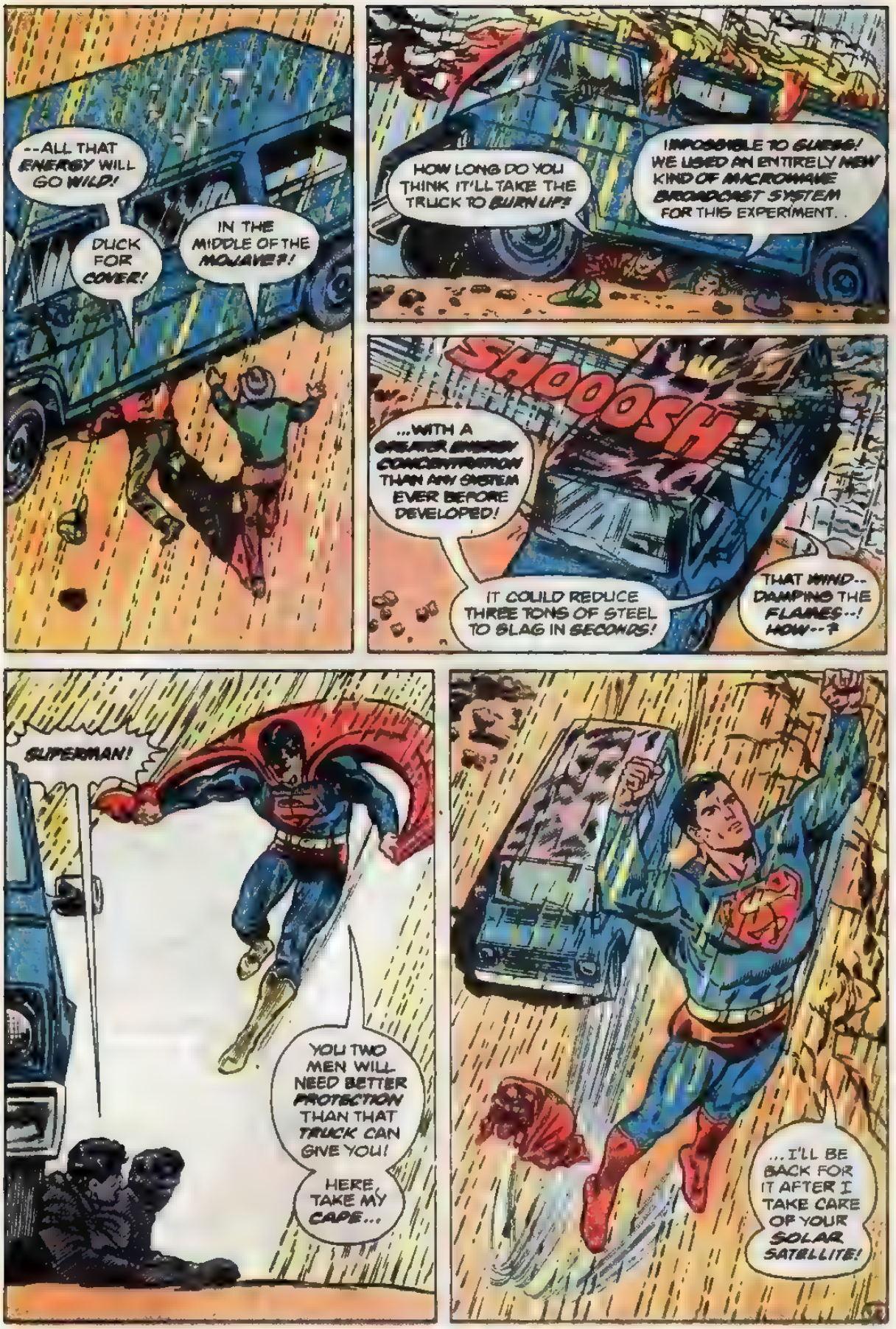
--UNTIL...
SUPERMAN, MY PRO-NYM IS KARMAULT, I MUST CONVERSE WITH YOU!
7

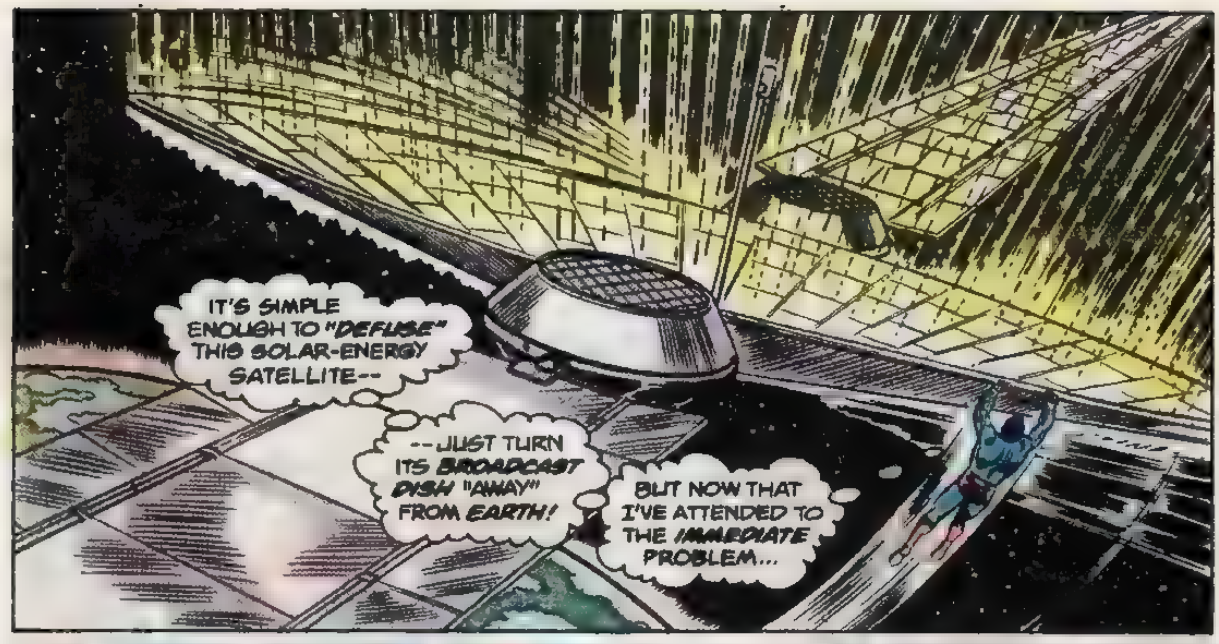
WHO DID YOU CALL ME--?
THIS IS NOT THE PROPER TEMPORAL LOCUS FOR DISSEMBLING, SUPERMAN! I KNOW YOUR IDENTITY, DISGUISED AS YOU MAY BE TO THE EYES OF YOUR FELLOW TELLURIANS...
...THOUGH TO MY OCULARS, YOU ARE CLEARLY THE SAME BEING, WHETHER IN YOUR KRYPTONIAN CLOTHES, OR IN TELLURIAN GARMENTS!
WE MAY BE OF SERVICE TO EACH OTHER.
ASSUMING FOR A MOMENT THAT I AM WHO YOU SAY-- HOW COULD YOU HELP ME, OR I HELP YOU?
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SEVERAL TELLURIAN ARTIFACTS IN THE PAST 7TH TELLURIAN DAY...
THESE ARTIFACTS WERE STOLEN BY MY BROTHER, FARLUNG, A TUBAR OF MY HOME WORLD-- IN YOUR TERMS, A PRINCE.
FARLUNG AND I ARE FROM A DISTANT PLANET WHOSE DOMINANT RACE HAS TELEPATHIC AND TELEKINETIC ABILITIES.
THUS, OUR RACE NEVER NEEDED TO DEVELOP MECHANICAL SCIENCE, AS YOUR ADOPTED RACE DID ON THIS, PLANET.
THEN, LESS THAN A TELLURIAN MONTH AGO, TRAGEDY STRUCK OUR WORLD...
8
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

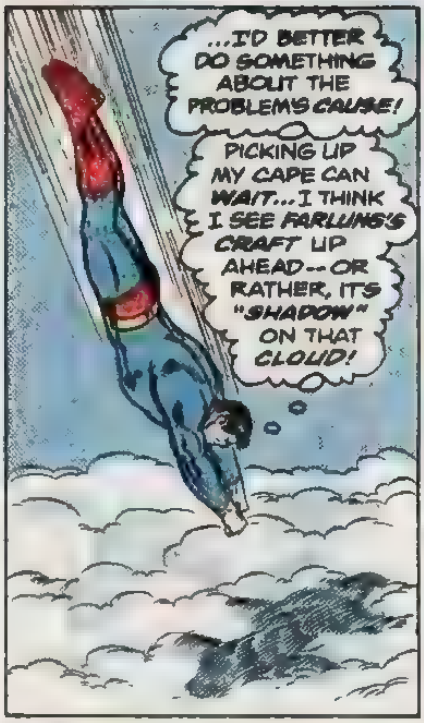
OUR PLANET PASSED THROUGH A STRANGE, GLITTERING NEBULA, AND WHEN WE LEFT THE STELLAR CLOUD--
--WE DISCOVERED, TO OUR HORROR, THAT OUR TELEKINETIC ABILITIES WERE SLOWLY VANISHING!
SIMPLE MIND-OVER-MATTER DEEDS BECAME INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT ...AND SOON, THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CIVILIZATION BEGAN TO CRUMBLE!
BECAUSE WE WERE--AH, "PRINCES OF THE REALM" --MY BROTHER FARLING AND I WERE CHOSEN TO HELP SAVE OUR RACE!
WE WERE TOLD TO JOURNEY TO A WORLD WHOSE RACE HAD MASTERED MECHANICAL SCIENCE...
... AND THERE, LEARN WHAT WE COULD FROM THE DOMINANT RACE OF THAT WORLD. BUT FARLING, ALWAYS IMPATIENT, DECIDED TO STEAL EXAMPLES OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY.
I CHOSE THIS MORE PEACEFUL METHOD OF REQUESTING AID.
BUT WHERE ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOT INSIDE THIS COMPUTER TERMINAL!
NO, I AM BROADCASTING TO YOU ON THE TERMINAL'S ELECTROMAGNETIC FREQUENCY.
MY CRAFT IS ON A RIDGE TO THE NORTHWEST OF YOUR CITY, AND YOU MAY COME TO ME IN--
9

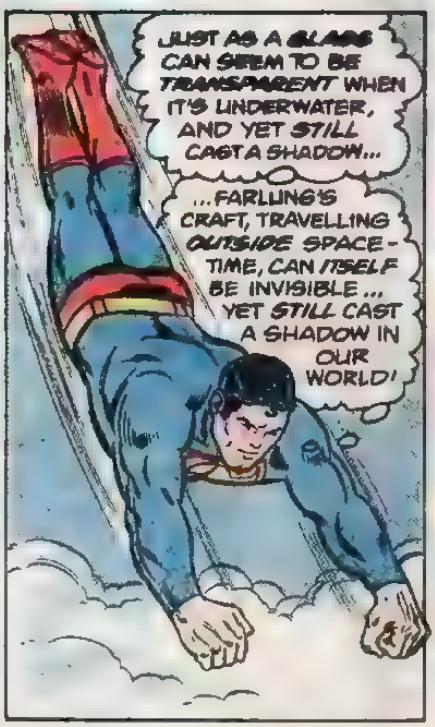
--PERSON, IF YOU WISH.
EH? YOU TRAVEL QUICKLY, TELLURIAN!
WHEN I HAVE TO! HOW DO I FIND YOUR BROTHER, FARLUNG?
HIS SHIP, LIKE MINE, TRAVELS OUTSIDE THE PRESENT TIME-SPACE LOCUS--EXACTLY ONE SECOND IN THE FUTURE, AND ONE MILLIMETER TO THE "RIGHT" OF HIS APPARENT LOCATION.
BUT, IN RETURN FOR THIS INFORMATION --I NEED HELP!
I WISH TO LEARN FROM YOUR GREATEST TECHNOLOGISTS SUCH MECHANICAL INFORMATION AS WILL ASSIST MY PEOPLE.
WILL YOU GIVE ME THE NAMES OF YOUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS?
THESE MEN WILL HELP YOU, IF YOU EXPLAIN YOUR NEED.
NOW, I CAN'T STAY ANY LONGER...
...NOT IF I'M TO APPREHEND YOUR BROTHER BEFORE HE DOES ANY SERIOUS HARM!
AH, BUT FARLUNG IS NOT THE TRUE THREAT TO YOUR WORLD, TELLURIAN...
I AM... AND YOU CANNOT IMAGINE WHY!
10

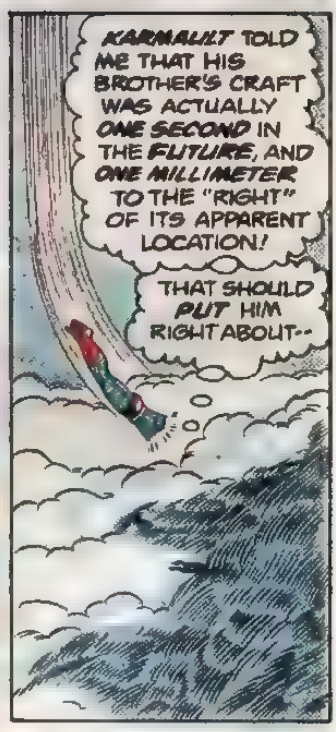
THE MOJAVE DESERT, FRACTIONS OF A SECOND LATER...
WE CAN REPORT TO THE ENERGY DEPARTMENT THAT THE WORLD'S FIRST EXPERIMENTAL SOLAR RECTENNA IS A SUCCESS, DAVE!
I'LL SAY! THE WAY IT'S SOAKING UP MICROWAVES BEAMED FROM THE SOLAR-POWER SATELLITE ORBITING OVERHEAD--
--IS A JOY TO BEHO-- OOH?
WHAT'S THAT SHADOW PASSING OVERHEAD?
NO SHADOW-- BUT A BURST OF LIGHT--COMING FROM SOMEWHERE ABOVE!
HITTING THE RECTENNA--!
HOLY TOLEDO!
THAT LIGHT BURST HAS FADED--AND THE RECTENNA IS GONE!
BUT THE MICROWAVES ARE STILL BEAMING DOWN!
WITHOUT THE RECTENNA TO ABSORB THEM--

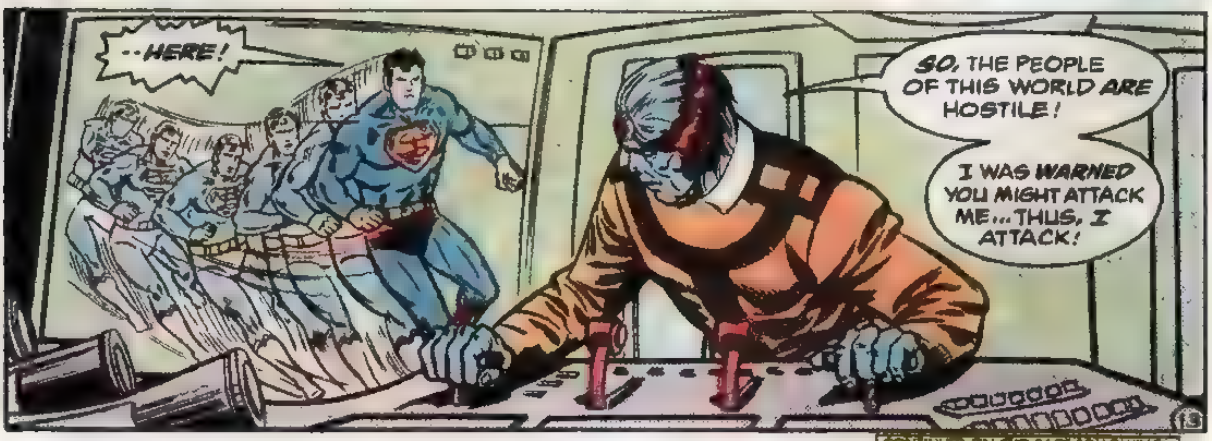

--ALL THAT ENERGY WILL GO WILD!
DUCK FOR COVER!
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MOJAVE?!
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK IT'LL TAKE THE TRUCK TO BURN UP?
IMPOSSIBLE TO GUESS! WE USED AN ENTIRELY NEW KIND OF MACROWAVE BROADCAST SYSTEM FOR THIS EXPERIMENT. .
SHOOOSH
...WITH A GREATER ENERGY CONCENTRATION THAN ANY SYSTEM EVER BEFORE DEVELOPED!
IT COULD REDUCE THREE TONS OF STEEL TO SLAG IN SECONDS!
THAT WIND-- DAMPING THE FLAMES--! HOW--?
SUPERMAN!
YOU TWO MEN WILL NEED BETTER PROTECTION THAN THAT TRUCK CAN GIVE YOU!
HERE, TAKE MY CAPE...
...I'LL BE BACK FOR IT AFTER I TAKE CARE OF YOUR SOLAR SATELLITE!


IT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH TO "DEFUSE" THIS SOLAR-ENERGY SATELLITE--
--JUST TURN ITS BROADCAST DISH "AWAY" FROM EARTH!
BUT NOW THAT I'VE ATTENDED TO THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM...


...I'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROBLEM'S CAUSE!
PICKING UP MY CAPE CAN WAIT... I THINK I SEE FARLING'S CRAFT UP AHEAD--OR RATHER, IT'S "SHADOW" ON THAT CLOUD!


JUST AS A GLASS CAN SEEM TO BE TRANSPARENT WHEN IT'S UNDERWATER, AND YET STILL CAST A SHADOW...
...FARLING'S CRAFT, TRAVELLING OUTSIDE SPACE-TIME, CAN ITSELF BE INVISIBLE... YET STILL CAST A SHADOW IN OUR WORLD!


KARMALIT TOLD ME THAT HIS BROTHER'S CRAFT WAS ACTUALLY ONE SECOND IN THE FUTURE, AND ONE MILLIMETER TO THE "RIGHT" OF ITS APPARENT LOCATION!
THAT SHOULD PUT HIM RIGHT ABOUT--



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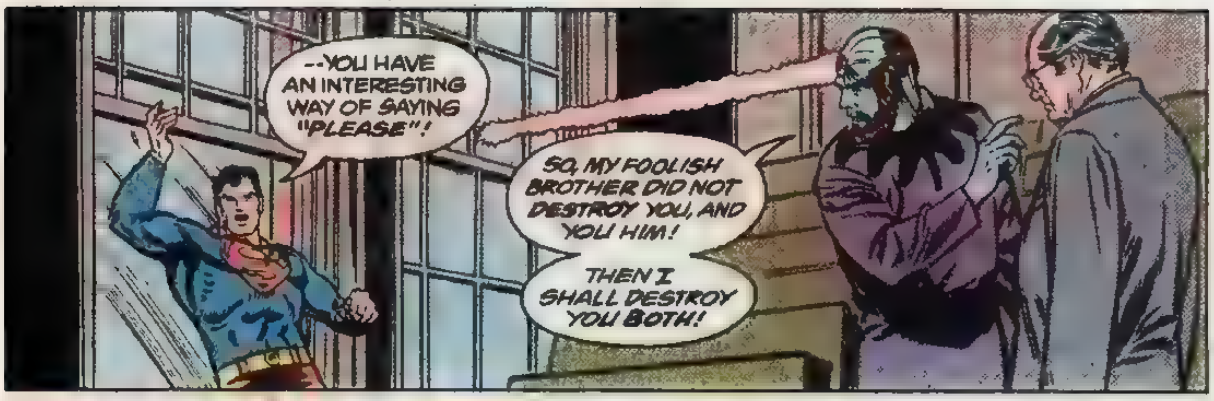
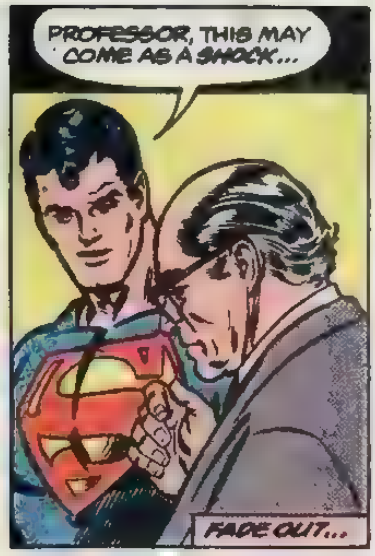
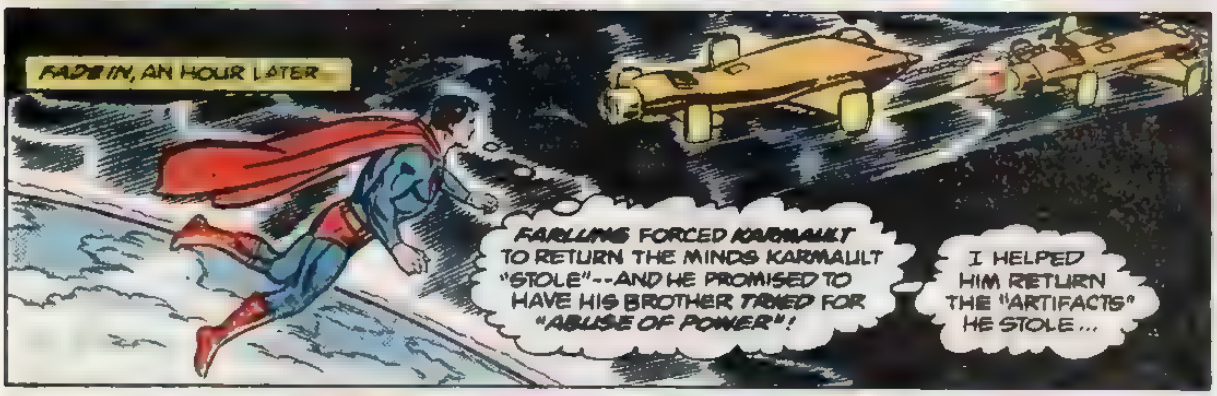
HE WAS "WARNED"--? BUT WHO WOULD--
ARRRGGH!
PURE TELEKINETIC POWER, TELLURIAN! THOUGH MY ENERGIES ARE WANING, STILL AM I STRONG...
...STRONG ENOUGH TO REPEL YOUR COWARDLY UNWARRANTED ASSAULT!
THAT MIND-BOLT HURT... AND I DON'T DARE LET MYSELF GET HIT BY ANOTHER!
I'LL DODGE AT SUPER-SPEED!
ZZZMMM
ZZZMMM
DO YOU KNOW MY POWER!
AVOID THESE, THEN, TELLURIAN--MAGNETIC SHOCK-DISKS, ATTUNED TO ATTACK ANY LIVING MATTER BUT MYSELF!
THAT'S EASY, FARLUNG. I DON'T NEED TO AVOID THEM--
--YOU SEE?
SPRTUNG
SPOING
YOU THINK I AM IGNORANT OF YOUR INVULNERABILITY?
I WAS TOLD WHAT TO EXPECT-- THE DISKS WERE ONLY A DIVERSION, TO ALLOW ME TO CONCENTRATE MY POWER--
14

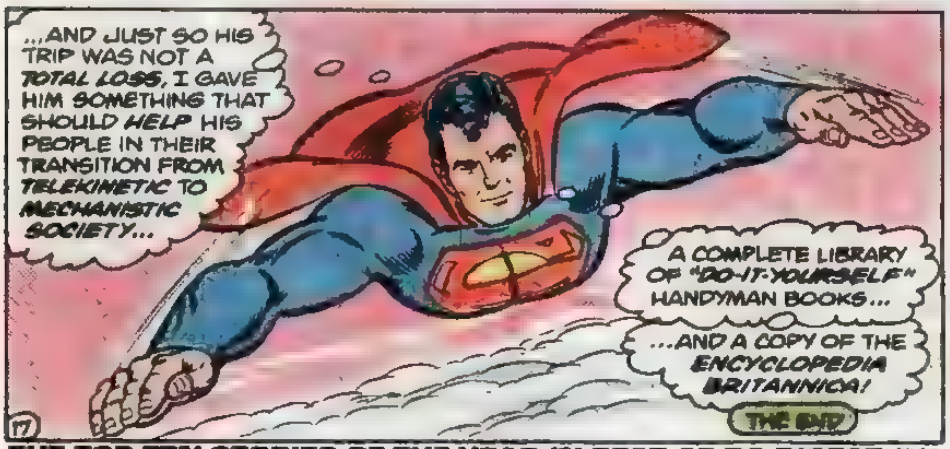
--FOR THE ULTIMATE OFFENSE!
CAN'T LET THAT MIND-BOLT HIT ME--
--HAVE TO JUGGLE IT LIKE A RIVETER TOSSING A HOT RIVET FROM HAND TO HAND--
--THEN SEND IT BACK WHERE IT CAME FROM!
YUNNNH!
I HAVE A HUNCH WE'VE BOTH BEEN PLAYED FOR FOOLS, FARLUNG!
YOU SAID SOMEONE WARNED YOU I MIGHT "ATTACK" --THAT WE "TELLURIANS" WERE HOSTILE AND COWARDLY!
THAT SOMEONE WAS YOUR BROTHER KARMAULT, WASN'T IT?
YES.. KARMAULT WANTED TO PROTECT ME...

I WANTED TO ASK YOU TELLURIANS FOR ASSISTANCE, OUTRIGHT, BUT KARMAULT WARNED ME YOU WERE EVIL, IRRATIONAL!
ON HIS ADVICE, I TRIED TO COLLECT THE ARTIFACTS MY WORLD NEEDS TO SURVIVE! WAS I WRONG?
WE'VE BOTH BEEN VERY WRONG, FARLING!
TELL ME, WILL THERE BE A REWARD FOR THE ONE OF YOU WHO BRINGS BACK THE TECHNICAL INFORMATION YOUR RACE REQUIRES?
NATURALLY! THAT BROTHER WILL BE MADE ABSOLUTE RULER!
?
I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT.
EXCUSE ME WHILE I CORRECT A MISTAKE...
...ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION ON MY LIST, PROFESSOR HODGKINS, YOU ARE AN EXPERT IN NUCLEAR PHYSICS.
MY PEOPLE WILL FIND YOUR EXPERTISE USEFUL--
--WHEN I RETURN HOME WITH YOUR MIND AND MEMORY SAFELY STORED, WITH THE MINDS AND MEMORIES OF YOUR WORLD'S OTHER LEADING SCIENTISTS, IN MY OWN BRAIN!
SO THIS IS HOW YOU ASK FOR HELP! I'LL GIVE YOU THIS, KARMAULT--


--YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING WAY OF SAYING "PLEASE"!
SO, MY FOOLISH BROTHER DID NOT DESTROY YOU, AND YOU HIM!
THEN I SHALL DESTROY YOU BOTH!




FADE IN, AN HOUR LATER
FARLING FORCED KARMAULT TO RETURN THE MINDS KARMAULT "STOLE"--AND HE PROMISED TO HAVE HIS BROTHER TAKED FOR "ABUSE OF POWER"!
I HELPED HIM RETURN THE "ARTIFACTS" HE STOLE...


...AND JUST SO HIS TRIP WAS NOT A TOTAL LOSS, I GAVE HIM SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HELP HIS PEOPLE IN THEIR TRANSITION FROM TELEKINETIC TO MECHANISTIC SOCIETY...
A COMPLETE LIBRARY OF "DO-IT-YOURSELF" HANDYMAN BOOKS...
...AND A COPY OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA!
THE END
17

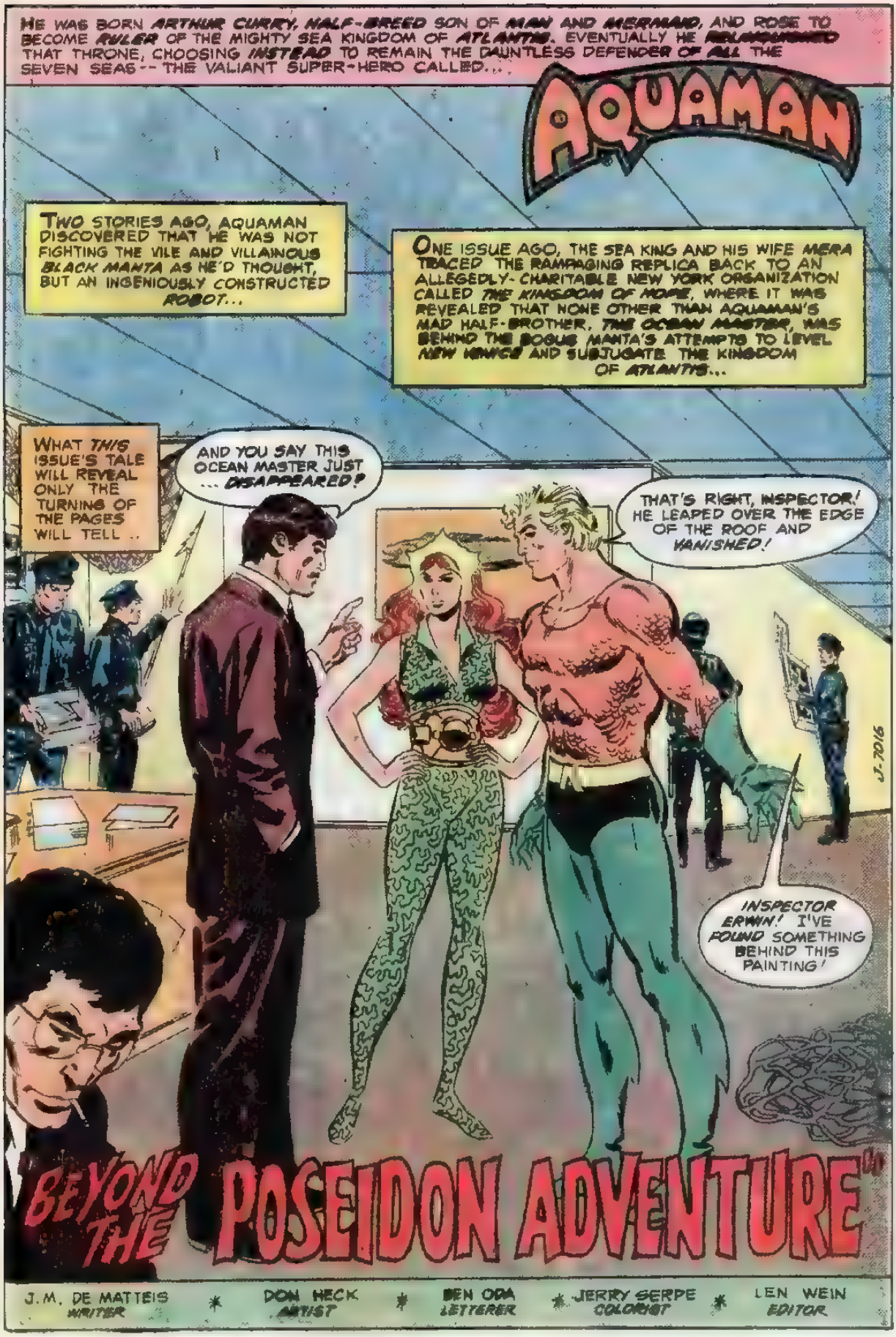
NEXT ISSUE:

A COSMIC HUNTER STALKS THE **DEADLIEST** GAME IN THE UNIVERSE -- ON A HUNTING GROUND CALLED **EARTH!**

"WHERE THE SPACE-WINDS BLOW!"

ON SALE FEB. 5! IT'S A DATE!

THE TOP TEN STORIES OF THE YEAR IN BEST OF DC DIGEST #11-- NOW ON SALE!


HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS -- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...
AQUAMAN
TWO STORIES AGO, AQUAMAN DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS NOT FIGHTING THE VILE AND VILLAINOUS BLACK MANTA AS HE'D THOUGHT, BUT AN INGENIOUSLY CONSTRUCTED ROBOT...
ONE ISSUE AGO, THE SEA KING AND HIS WIFE MERA TRACED THE RAMPAGING REPLICA BACK TO AN ALLEGEDLY-CHARITABLE NEW YORK ORGANIZATION CALLED THE KINGDOM OF MAN, WHERE IT WAS REVEALED THAT NONE OTHER THAN AQUAMAN'S MAD HALF-BROTHER, THE OCEAN MASTER, WAS BEHIND THE BOGUS MANTA'S ATTEMPTS TO LEVEL NEW YORK AND SUBJUGATE THE KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS...
WHAT THIS ISSUE'S TALE WILL REVEAL ONLY THE TURNING OF THE PAGES WILL TELL ..
AND YOU SAY THIS OCEAN MASTER JUST ... DISAPPEARED?
THAT'S RIGHT, INSPECTOR! HE LEAPED OVER THE EDGE OF THE ROOF AND VANISHED!
INSPECTOR ERWIN! I'VE FOUND SOMETHING BEHIND THIS PAINTING!
J. ROSS
BEYOND THE POSEIDON ADVENTURE!
J.M. DE MATTEIS WRITER
DON HECK ARTIST
BEN ODA LETTERER
JERRY SERPE COLORIST
LEN WEIN EDITOR

BUT DIDN'T YOU SEARCH THE AREA FOR HIM?
THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE AT THE TIME--SINCE MERA AND I HAD BEEN OUT OF WATER FOR NEARLY AN HOUR AND NEEDED TO RETURN TO THE SEA!
HECK OF A TIME TO GO FOR A SWIM!
IF WE'RE ON LAND MORE THAN SIXTY MINUTES... SIR -- WE DIE! JUST BE HAPPY WE CALLED THE POLICE IN AT ALL!
OH YEAH... RIGHT! I THINK I ONCE READ SOMETHING ABOUT THAT IN CELEBRITY MAGAZINE!
I'D GO FOR A DUNK TOO IF THAT WAS THE CASE! ANYWAY--LET'S SEE WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE...
...WHEN I FLIP THE SWITCH--
WHAT IN BLAZES IS ALL THIS?! I MEAN-- WE'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING THIS KINGDOM OF HOPE FOR FRAUD BUT--
DON'T LET THESE SCIENTIFIC GADGETS FOOL YOU, INSPECTOR! THERE'S BEEN A GAME OF FRAUD GOING ON HERE, ALL RIGHT...
...BUT IT'S GOT VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH YOU!
2

AND WHILE THE MARINE MARVEL STANDS FROZEN, EYES WIDE WITH ASTONISHMENT, WE TURN OUR ATTENTION ELSEWHERE...
...TO A SEA OF SPRAWLING ANTIDELUVIAN RUIN SOME MILES BENEATH THE DOMED CITY OF ATLANTIS...
YOUR TELEPORTATION DEVICE SAVED ME -- BUT I FAILED YOU... MISERABLY!
WHY MUST YOU SPEAK OF FAILURE, ORM? AT LEAST YOU TRIED...
...IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO TRY!
YOU REALLY MEAN THAT? YOU ACCEPT ME DESPITE MY FAILURE?
FAILURE IS A RELATIVE CONCEPT. AFTER ALL -- YOU DID SUCCEED IN CONFUSING AQUAMAN...
...IN SHAKING UP HIS COMPLACENT PERCEPTIONS OF REALITY. YOU SEE, HE STILL DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND YOUR ATTACKS!
YES... THAT'S RIGHT! AND -- YOU KNOW -- I WOULD HAVE WON WITH MY BLACK MANTA ROBOT IF ARTHUR HADN'T ESCAPED MY NEUTRO-ENERGAIC CAGE SOMEHOW!
YES... AND YOU CAN HARDLY BE BLAMED FOR THE MALFUNCTION THAT CAUSED THAT SAME ROBOT TO BLOW UP AND REVEAL OUR HAND!
ALL THIS MEANS IS THAT WE MUST HAVE DONE WITH SUBTLETY.
AQUAMAN MUST BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY HERE TO ME AT ONCE... DEAD!
PLEASE... LET ME FULFILL THAT MISSION! LET ME TRY AGAIN!
NO...
...THERE IS ANOTHER MORE SUITED TO THE TASK -- ANOTHER WHO DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE TO PROVE HIMSELF...
INDEED, MY DARLING AMPHITRITE -- AND THIS TIME YOUR WISHES WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO PERFECTION!
SO SWEARS... POSEIDON -- LORD OF THE OCEANS!
3

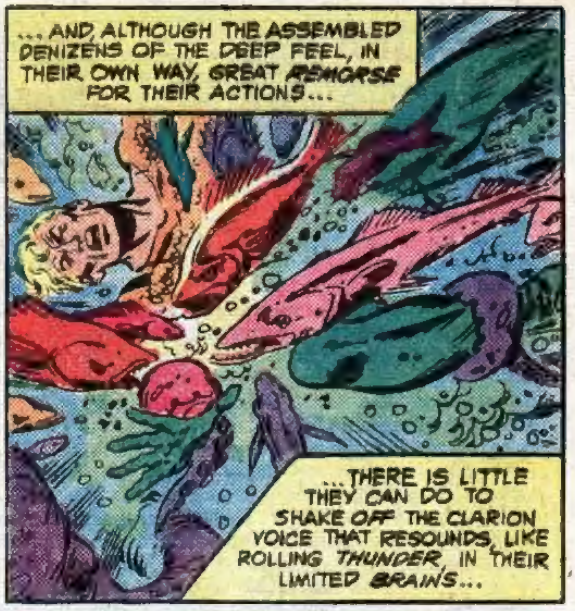
"MARK MY WORDS, BEAUTEOUS ONE BEFORE THIS DAY IS THROUGH, AQUAMAN WILL LIE DEAD AT YOUR FEET-AND YOU MAY DO WITH HIM WHATE'ER YOU WILL!"
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THE SCAVENGER WAS A MECHANICAL RINGER, TOO?
POLICE
APPARENTLY SO, CAL! SCAVENGER AND I RECENTLY CLASHED OVER THIS ANCIENT ATLANTEAN DIMENSION SPANNER.
NOW THE DEVICE SHOWS UP AT THE KINGDOM OF MOPE OFFICES ALONG WITH A SCAVENGER-ROBOT...
...WHICH EXPLAINS HOW IT CAME INTO ORM'S POSSESSION...
...BUT NOT WHY! BY NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT -- THERE ARE TOO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS HERE!
TO KNOW ABOUT THE SPANNER, ORM WOULD FIRST HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT ATLENA -- THE SOLE LIVING SURVIVOR OF THE ORIGINAL ATLANTIS -- WHO'S TRAPPED ETERNALLY IN AN OTHER-WORLDLY LIMBO...
...AND IF HE USED HIS SCAVENGER-PAWN TO DESTROY THIS -- THE ONLY MACHINE CAPABLE OF FREEING HER FROM THERE...
...THEN ORM OBVIOUSLY HAS SOME REASON FOR WANTING ATLENA TO REMAIN A PRISONER!
OKAY. BUT WHY DID HE SEND THAT FAKE MANTA ON THE WARPATH? IT DOESN'T FIT!
THERE'S MORE THAT DOESN'T FIT! JUST BEFORE HE TOOK OFF, ORM MUTTERED SOMETHING ABOUT HIS MOTHER -- MY FATHER'S SECOND WIFE...
...BUT AS FAR AS I KNOW -- SHE'S BEEN DEAD FOR SO--
KNOCK
KNOCK
4
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

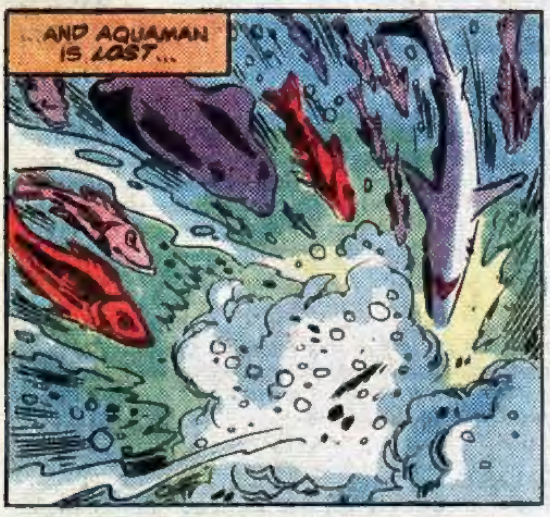
KRASH-THOOM!
AND THAT--MY LOYAL SUB-SEA SERVANTS--TAKES CARE OF THAT!

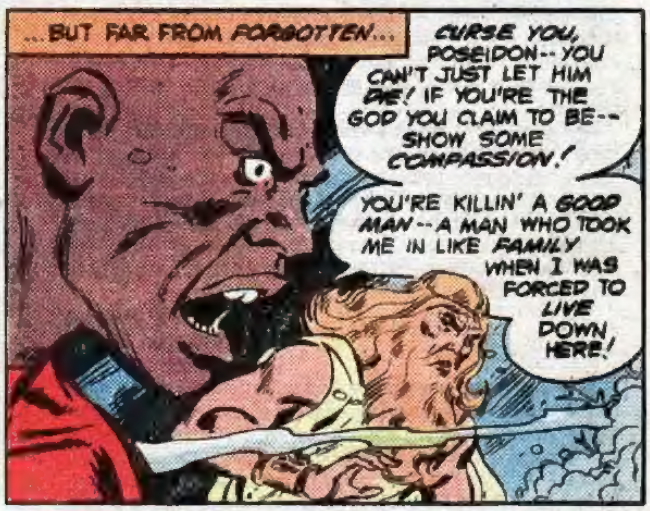
UH- UH, POSEIDON...
...THAT DOESN'T TAKE CARE OF...
... ANYTHING!!
HOW...?!
WHAPOWW!
EASY... WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE FACT THAT IT ONLY TAKES MERA A MATTER OF SECONDS TO THROW UP A PROTECTIVE HARD-WATER SHIELD...
... LUCKY...?!
...AND YOU'RE GOING TO NEED ONE YOURSELF WHEN I GET THROUGH WITH YOU -- YOU DELUDED MORON!
THE FIRST TIME WE TANGLED, IT TOOK ME A WHILE BEFORE I REALIZED THAT YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS WERE FOCUSED THROUGH THIS TRIDENT!
THIS TIME YOU'RE NOT SO...
SNAKITY!
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED-- YOU JUST LEVELED MY HOME!
NO, MY CHILD-- THIS TIME YOU ARE THE UNFORTUNATE SOUL!
6

LORD POSEIDON'S POWER IS ALIVE WITHIN HIM NOW--AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE! THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED OF EXTERNAL AID!
AND NOW, MY RECALCITRANT SUBJECT--YOU WHO DARE BESMIRCH THE NAME OF A BORN OLYMPIAN--OF THE BROTHER OF ALMIGHTY ZEUS HIMSELF...
...YOU SHALL LEARN THE LESSON OF HUMILITY I'D MEANT TO TEACH YOU ONCE BEFORE!
...OR YOUR PATHETICALLY-INEFFECTIVE SURFACE-BORN FRIEND!
DO NOT LOOK FOR HELP TO EITHER YOUR IGNOBLE WIFE...
THIS STRUGGLE IS BETWEEN YOU...
SWOK!
...AND ME...
7

NOW FULLY UNDERSTAND WHOSE IS THE POWER AND THE GLORY BENEATH THE WAVES!
DESTROY HIM-- MY FAITHFUL SUBJECTS!
POSEIDON'S TELEPATHIC COMMANDS SWEEP THROUGH THE MULTITUDES OF FISH LIKE A MIGHTY TIDAL WAVE...


...AND, ALTHOUGH THE ASSEMBLED DENIZENS OF THE DEEP FEEL, IN THEIR OWN WAY, GREAT REMORSE FOR THEIR ACTIONS...
...THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO TO SHAKE OFF THE CLARION VOICE THAT RESOUNDS, LIKE ROLLING THUNDER, IN THEIR LIMITED BRAINS...




...BUT FAR FROM FORBOTTEN...
CURSE YOU, POSEIDON-- YOU CAN'T JUST LET HIM DIE! IF YOU'RE THE GOD YOU CLAIM TO BE-- SHOW SOME COMPASSION!
YOU'RE KILLIN' A GOOD MAN--A MAN WHO TOOK ME IN LIKE FAMILY WHEN I WAS FORCED TO LIVE DOWN HERE!

CAL DURHAM SPITS HIS WORDS OUT IN A FRANTIC MAIL OF DESPERATION, LITTLE EXPECTING THE EXPLOSIVE RESPONSE THEY ELICIT...
...DIE... FAMILY...?! OH GOD. OH GOD!
IT'S ALL COMING BACK! MEMORIES ...LIFTING LIKE A FOG...

NEXT ISSUE: "FAMILY PLOT!"